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30 July 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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3. Nigeria: Military mutiny jeopardizes Ironsi regime.
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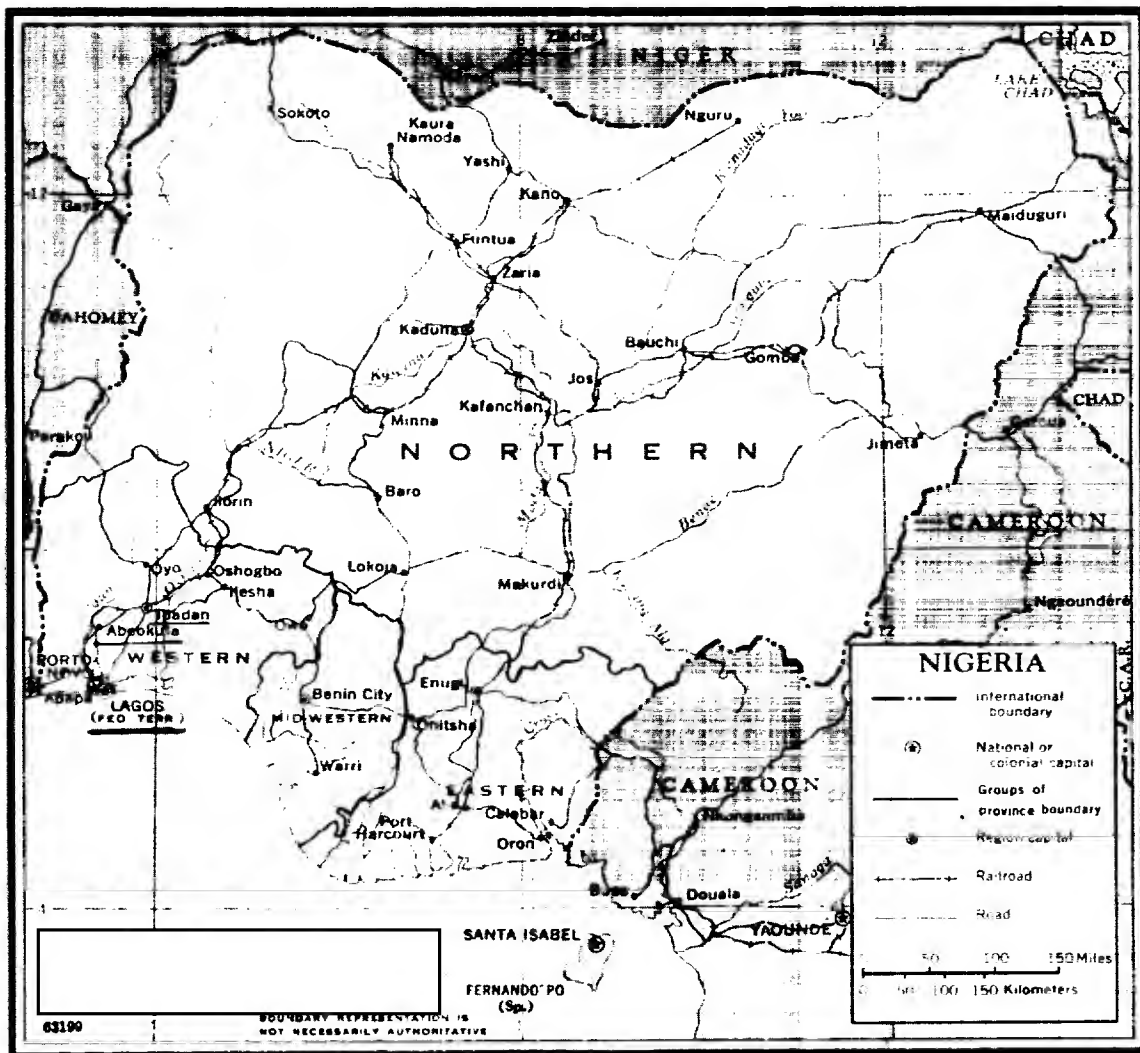


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*Nigeria: Yesterday's mutiny of military elements in Western Nigeria has placed General Ironsi's regime in grave jeopardy.

Long-smoldering tensions within the 10,000-man Nigerian Army, which came to power through a military coup last January, erupted into open dissidence at three locations in Western Nigeria on 29 July. Bloody clashes between mutinous troops and loyal forces occurred within units based at Abeokuta and Ikeja, site of the international airport serving Lagos, the nearby national capital. Some elements based in Ibadan, the capital of Western Nigeria, apparently have also mutinied. So far, however, the trouble has not spread to other parts of the country. (see map)

The situation has become increasingly confused and uncertain since the initial outbreaks. At this time the dissidents appear to be in control at least of Ikeja, including the airport. Particularly uncertain is the fate of General Ironsi, who was attending a meeting in Ibadan when the mutiny occurred. Early unconfirmed reports indicated that he had been detained and possibly killed.

At present, the number two man in the regime, Brigadier Ogundipe, and the deputy police chief are reportedly directing the regime's counter efforts from Lagos. These have included the formal institution yesterday of martial law in Ibadan, Ikeja, and Abeokuta and the dispatch of loyal troops to attempt recovery of the airport.

(continued)

The mutinous elements appear to consist mainly of Hausa tribesmen from northern Nigeria. Although their leadership and objectives have not yet been clearly established, their actions probably stem from their long festering antagonism toward Ironsi's southern-based regime. In any event, if they are not quickly brought to heel a general disintegration of the Army along tribal lines could well result. Such a development might lead to a large-scale breakdown of order including widespread intertribal clashes.

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{ * Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense. }

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The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

The Director of Intelligence and Research

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The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

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The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

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The Secretary of the Navy

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Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

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